

COUNCIL MEETING February 12, 2021

Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Chair
Hunter Adkins
Kimberly Blackmon
Ronnie Browning
Paul Cardarella
Gladys Cortez
Kristen Cox
Andrew Crim
Mary Faithfull, DRTX
Jennifer Hines, TWC
Scott McAvoy
Meagan Orsag,
A&M-CDD
Michael Peace
Randell Resneder
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Eric Shahid
Robert Schier III
Toby Summers
Keith Swink, TEA
Lora Taylor
John Thomas
Kim Torres

Audrey Young, DSHS/Maternal
Child Health
Dana Williamson,
HHSC/Medicaid
Nina Zuna, TCDS

Members Absent

Maverick Crawford
Molly Spratt

Guests Present

Christina Bryant
Kyle Cox
Joey Gidseg
Rebecca Japko
Linda Litzinger
Laura Marquez
Rep. Victoria Neave
Kami Shahid

Regional Coordinators Present

Morgan Bradley
Rosa Guel

Skyler Mueller
Anthony Ross
Shelby Vaughn
Richard Williams

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey,
Executive Director
Martha Cantu
Scott Daigle
Robert Garcia
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Stacey Kaleh
Genessee Klemm
Linda Logan
Sylvia Medina
Evan Marczynski
Richard Rendon
Mary Rochford
Koren Vogel
Rosalin Willis

Call to Order

Pursuant to the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities met virtually using the Zoom platform on Friday, February 12, 2021. Chair Durham requested Council Vice-Chair Andrew Crim to facilitate the meeting and he called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. Public Comments

Linda Litzinger of Texas Parent to Parent offered public comments on the implementation of SB 1207 (86th Texas Legislature) as it relates to the coordination of benefits between commercial insurance and state funded programs.

3. **Consent Items**

Vice-Chair Crim reviewed consent items including the minutes from the October 28, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting and the October 30, 2020, Council meeting and the excused absences of Maverick Crawford and Molly Spratt.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 28, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting and October 30, 2020, Council meeting and the excused absences of Maverick Crawford and Molly Spratt.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins

SECOND: Robert Schier III

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2021 Meeting Materials, Tab 12)

4. **Chair and Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Beth Stalvey reported information from federal authority, the Administration on Community Living (ACL). She first noted that congressional approval of the FY 2021 budget included an overall increase for DD Councils for total funding of \$79 million. TCDD will receive an increase from FY 2020 but the total amount will not be known until the final notice of grant award is received. She also noted an extension to the deadline for annual reporting and ACL's establishment of a technical assistance center on employment.

Stalvey next reported on changes within TCDD staff including:

- Selection of Stacey Ingram Kaleh as Director of Communications and Reporting
- Promotion of Genessee Klemm to Leadership and Advocacy Program Manager
- Shift of Martha Cantu's position from Operations Director to Director of Budget and Finance
- Promotion of Koren Vogel to Council Business Manager
- Shift of Fernando Rodriguez's position from Operations Assistant to Council Business Coordinator

She also noted that Martha Cantu announced her retirement, effective March 31, 2021 and that the posting to accept applications for a Director of Budget and Finance is in process.

Stalvey reported on TCDD activities related to tracking COVID-19 vaccine implementation for people with IDD, family and caregivers, and in-home support staff. Further discussion on this topic will be addressed at a TCDD Disability Policy Academy.

Stalvey also highlighted activities from the regional coordinators including educational sessions on aging with disabilities, special education, and healthcare including transitioning from pediatric to adult medicine.

5. **Recognition and Presentations from TCDD Legislative Champions Recipients**

Public Policy Director Scott Daigle reviewed the Council action following the 86th Texas

Legislature acknowledging work by legislators that had a positive impact on people with disabilities. The Council recognized Representative Victoria Neave (D-Mesquite), Representative John Raney (R-Bryan/College Station), Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham), and Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) and invited them to share remarks during this meeting.

Rep. Raney sent a video that thanked the Council for the recognition and briefly discussed legislation that was passed during that session. He noted that he is again serving on the Appropriations and Higher Education Committee and invited Council members to contact him regarding their interest in specific issues or bills for the current session.

Rep. Neave joined the meeting and thanked the Council for the recognition. She spoke with members about the importance of sharing their stories and experiences during their advocacy efforts. Neave also spoke on specific issues such as the rise of domestic violence during the pandemic, juvenile justice, training for law enforcement related to sex trafficking and sexual assault, and mental health.

6. Election of Council Vice-Chair

Nominating Committee Chair Hunter Adkins reported on the Committee discussion for the position of Council Vice-Chair. She thanked current Vice-Chair Andrew Crim for his past two years of service and reported that the Committee recommendation is to elect Robert Schier III as Council Vice-Chair. No other nominations were offered by members.

MOTION: To elect Robert Schier III as Council Vice-Chair.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins for the Nominating Committee (motions from Committee do not need a second)

The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. Election of Consumer (Self-Advocate) Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee

Adkins reported on Committee discussion for the position of Consumer Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee. She thanked Kimberly Blackmon for her past years of service and noted the Committee recommended her continuing in this position. No other nominations were offered by members.

MOTION: To elect Kimberly Blackmon for a fourth consecutive year as the Consumer (Self-Advocate) Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

MADE BY: Hunter Adkins for the Nominating Committee.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

8. FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan Goals and Objectives

Executive Director Stalvey reminded members of the Committee of the Whole discussion on public input to the posted Draft FY 2022 – FY 2026 Goals and Objectives. Members offered one revision to Goal 2, Objective 2 to include promotion of trainings on school safety. The change is not significant enough to need a re-post for public comment.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan Goals and Objectives.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim for the Committee of the Whole

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2021 Meeting Materials, Tab 7)

9. **Quarterly Progress of State Plan Projects**

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed the Quarterly Progress of State Plan Projects report and presented highlights from the Educational Programs Inspiring Communities (EPIC) Youth Leadership project, the Baylor College of Medicine Health and Wellness project focused on dental medicine for people with IDD, and Literacy United's Reading for All project.

10. **Future Activities for State Plan Implementation**

Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported on discussion of new state plan project executive summaries and Future Funding Priorities List.

She first noted that the Committee discussed an Understanding Online Access Among individuals with DD During COVID19 project that would collect data to inform leaders on how individuals with DD are accessing information and connecting in a virtual environment and inform the system to respond with strategies that are consistent with the needs of individuals with DD and provide improved access to services and supports.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$100,000 for one 12-month Understanding Online Access Among Individuals with DD During COVID19 project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2021 Meeting Materials, Tab 9)

Cortez next reported discussion on Understanding Employment and Unemployment Among Individuals with DD During COVID-19 which will review existing and/or collect new data on the impact of COVID-19 as it relates to the employment experiences of individuals with DD, employers, and service providers.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$100,000 for one 12-month Understanding Employment and Unemployment Among Individuals with DD During COVID19 project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2021 Meeting Materials, Tab 9)

Cortez then reported on Committee discussion of the Future Funding Priorities List. She noted the Committee prioritized the newly approved projects due to the timeliness of those project activities. She also noted that timing as well as pandemic and social-distancing concerns have changed other project priorities. The Committee recommends the elimination of the Journalism Fellows project and asked for revised executive summaries for Engagement with Millennials and the Disability Advocacy Conference for TCDD trainees.

MOTION: To approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

- 1) [new] Understanding Online Access Among individuals with DD During COVID19
- 2) [new] Understanding of Employment and Unemployment Among Individuals with DD During COVID19
- 3) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
- 4) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Criminal Justice Response to Cases involving people with IDD
- 5) Higher Education
- 6) Higher Education Collaborative
- 7) Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery (First Responders)
- 8) Disability Related Participatory Research

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The Council then discussed the feasibility and necessity of the Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (First Responders) and the Disability Related Participatory Research projects. Concerns for the First Responders project included the potential for duplication of effort with other organizations. Concerns for the Disability Related Participatory Research included a past lack of interest and practicality of implementing the project as currently designed. Members discussed the need for these at great length and directed staff to do further research and bring revised executive summaries for consideration.

MOTION AMENDMENT: To approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

- 1) [new] Understanding Online Access Among Individuals with DD During COVID19
- 2) [new] Understanding of Employment and Unemployment Among Individuals with DD During COVID19
- 3) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
- 4) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses: Criminal Justice Response to Cases involving people with IDD
- 5) Higher Education
- 6) Higher Education Collaborative

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Randell Resneder

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2021 Meeting Materials, Tab 9)

11. **Communications and Marketing Activities**

Communications Coordinator Mary Rochford provided an update on activities within the past quarter. She reviewed social media statistics, shared communications activities related to 87th Texas Legislature and discussed the campaigns for Partners in Policymaking applications and public comment on the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan Goals and Objectives.

12. Executive Committee Report

Vice-Chair Crim reported Executive Committee approval of continuation grant funding for 10 projects and that speaker stipends were approved during the quarter by Executive Director Stalvey for three projects.

Grants Management Director Rosalin Willis discussed the Grants Monitoring Report that featured two projects which began during the quarter and six that will start in February and March. She also reported that five mini-grant projects recently ended, and two other projects are in the final year of funding. Willis noted that four projects will be considered for continuation funding at the May meeting. She reviewed the Independent Audit Status Report that showed 11 grantees have submitted audits that are currently under desk review. Willis also reviewed the Risk Assessment report to note that projects which recently ended were removed and that due to the diligence of grants monitoring activities the Special Olympics Health and Wellness project was able to move from a high to moderate risk project.

Executive Director Stalvey reviewed the FY 2020 TCDD Administrative and Expense budget and the Summary of Funds for FY 2018 – FY 2021. She also presented a new report that shows funds available respective to grant planning by featuring projects that have been awarded funding but are still in contract negotiations, and projects that are eligible for continuation application in future years.

Council Business Manager Koren Vogel reported on Conflict of Interest disclosure reports for staff and Council members and asked members to submit updates.

13. Project Development Committee Report

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported that the Committee received public comment from Judy Blake of Family to Family Network regarding the recently ended Leadership Development and Advocacy project. She also discussed the presentation from Leah Seyoum-Tesfa on the Reaching Families Advocacy & Support Group Culturally Appropriate Family Supports project. She noted that the Project Development Committee is pleased with the accomplishments of these projects and directed staff to bring revised executive summaries to explore further work in this area.

14. Public Policy Committee Report

Public Policy Committee Chair Taylor reported on public comments received from Linda Litzinger and Joey Gidseg. She also discussed the presentation from Eva DeLuna Castro, Program Director at Every Texan, on the Texas state budget.

15. Agency Reports

The Council received updates from Nina Zuna of Texas Center for Disability Studies, Meagan Orsag of Center for Development and Disability at Texas A&M, Dana Williamson of HHSC/Medicaid Program, Holly Riley of HHSC/Older Americans Act, Jennifer Hines of Texas Workforce Commission/Rehab Act, Keith Swink of Texas Education Agency/Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Audrey Young of DSHS/Maternal Child Health.

16. Future Agenda Items

Council members can provide additional suggestions for future agenda items in writing to Chair Durham or TCDD staff.

17. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed dates of future meetings of May 5-7, 2021, August 4-6, 2021, November 3-5, 2021, and February 2-4, 2022. Plans are for the May and August meetings to be held virtually.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Crim adjourned the meeting at 12:29 PM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date